

U.S. Embassy Bahrain

Demonstration Notice 20 – March 12, 2014

A reminder that there will be increased protests, attempts to disrupt traffic, protests near economic centers, suspicious packages planted, tire fires and additional clashes against police during the time period from February 11, 2014 to March 31, 2014 that may not occur in the restricted areas.

Anticipate widespread and frequent protests throughout the country that may appear during peak commuting hours from March the 13th until March the 16th.

Thursday, March 13, 2014 through Sunday, March 16, 2014, violent opposition groups have called for protests on the Budaiya Highway corridor during peak commuting hours from the Burgerland Round-a-bout east towards al Noaim (Central Market). In particular, the areas of Jidhafs, Sanabis, and Daih will likely experience violent protests during this time period. Clashes with police forces are likely. Traffic congestion in and around these areas will likely be higher than normal. These disruptions may have an impact on the morning, afternoon, and evening commute. It is strongly advised that you restrict travel along the Budaiya Highway corridor during these dates (Yellow ovals).

In light of recent events, the Embassy recommends you increase your general situational awareness both at home and away from home. Certain violent, anti GOB groups, and pro-Government of Bahrain groups are calling for continued protests. The violent anti-GOB groups are calling for increased activities throughout the country. These acts will likely take place inside of the restricted areas, but they could spill over. Pro-Government groups will likely protest in areas outside of the restricted areas. Anticipate that the Budaiya Highway corridor will experience increased acts along its length through March 31.

There have been no direct attacks on U.S. citizens to date. We recommend that you continually exercise the appropriate level of security awareness in regards to anti-U.S. activity or events. Spontaneous and, at times, violent anti-government of Bahrain protests continue to occur, particularly at night and on weekends. These protests have included blockades of major highways with burning debris and the establishment of unofficial checkpoints. Protestors have thrown rocks and Molotov cocktails and used homemade weapons to include improvised explosive devices and shotgun like projectile launchers. To counter these acts the Ministry of Interior will utilize crowd control measures, such as tear gas, stun grenades, and birdshot. Violent clashes between security forces and protestors can make travel in and around Bahrain dangerous without advance warning. The Ministry of Interior maintains official checkpoints in certain areas. We remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations if possible, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Internet website at travel.state.gov where the [Worldwide Caution](#), [Country Specific Information](#), [Travel Warnings](#), and [Travel Alerts](#) can be found. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well. Download our free Smart Traveler app, available through [iTunes](#) or [Google Play](#), to have travel information at your fingertips. In addition to information on the internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, from other countries, on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday through Friday, Eastern Time (except U.S. federal holidays). The U.S. Embassy in Manama can be reached at (973) 1724-2700; the afterhours emergency number is (973) 1724-2957; the fax number is (973) 1725-6242. The Embassy's [website](#), <http://bahrain.usembassy.gov>, includes travel information and the Worldwide Caution and Demonstration Notices. All U.S. citizens are encouraged to enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#). The Consular Section can be reached at ManamaConsular@state.gov.

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BAHRAIN: OFF-LIMITS AREAS

